

**REMARKS**

The Examiner's Action mailed on August 26, 2004, has been received and its contents carefully considered.

In this Amendment, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the subject matter of allowable claim 3 and intervening claim 2, amended allowable claims 8 and 9 into independent form, amended claims 11, 12 and 16 to change the dependencies thereof, and made an editorial change to dependent claim 6. Further, claims 2 and 3 have been canceled. Claims 1, 8 and 9 are the independent claims. Claims 1 and 4-16 remain pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

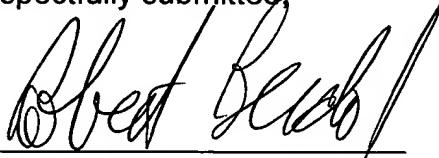
The Examiner has objected to claim 1 for an informality. In response thereto, this claim has been editorially amended to correct the informality specifically noted by the Examiner's Action. It is requested that this objection be withdrawn.

It is noted with great appreciation that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 3, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 14-16 as being allowable over the art of record. In response thereto, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 3 and intervening claim 2, and claims 8 and 9 have been amended into independent form. Thus, since all of the independent claims pending in the application contain allowable subject matter, all of the Examiner's prior art rejections have been rendered moot. Thus, this application is

now in condition for allowance. Such action and the passing of this case to issue are requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,



November 4, 2004  
Date

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